



Daniel H. Wells (1814–91) lived in Commerce, Illinois, when the exiled Saints went there from Missouri. Throughout the Church's stay in Nauvoo he was a friendly and sympathetic nonmember. He was baptized in the summer of 1846 and joined the pioneers, being one of the last to leave Nauvoo.

In 1857 he was called to be Second Counselor to President Brigham Young, where he served for twenty years. He was elected mayor of Salt Lake City in 1866 and occupied that position for a decade. In 1884 he was sent to preside over the European mission, and upon his return he was appointed the first president of the Manti Temple.



William H. Folsom was the architect for City Hall, which was completed in 1866 at a cost of seventy thousand dollars. At first the building served as the meeting place for the territorial legislature. It later became the headquarters for the city police. In 1960 the building was numbered, dismantled, and reconstructed just south of the Utah State Capitol Building.

the Council House, the Social Hall, the Endowment House, and a tithing store had been constructed in the growing community. Then in the 1860s the Salt Lake Theatre, the city hall, an arsenal, the Beehive House, the Lion House, and the Salt Lake Tabernacle were constructed. The Salt Lake Theatre, completed in 1862, became the center of much of the recreational and cultural activity in the valley.

From 1850 to 1870, Daniel H. Wells served as Superintendent of Public Works in Salt Lake City. He also served as commanding officer of the Nauvoo Legion, as Second Counselor in the First Presidency from 1857, and as mayor of Salt Lake City from 1866.

Believing that the Saints would be strengthened spiritually if they had an adequate building where they could gather to receive instruction from their leaders, President Brigham Young laid plans for a new tabernacle. He envisioned a large, dome-shaped house of worship. President Young, with the help of Henry Grow, a bridge builder, William H. Folsom, Church architect at the time, and Truman O. Angell, largely responsible for the interior, directed the construction of the unique building. It was 150 feet wide, 250 feet long, and 80 feet high. The tabernacle was completed in time for the October 1867 general conference. At the same time, a gigantic organ for the tabernacle was constructed by the superb craftsman Joseph H. Ridges, a convert from Australia. The right kind of wood for the organ was finally located in Pine Valley three hundred miles away in southern Utah and was carefully transported by as many as twenty wagon teams to Salt Lake City. Acoustics were at first a problem in the tabernacle, but with the addition of a balcony by 1870, the famed structure, seating eight thousand people, became an ideal place for large meetings.

Work on the Salt Lake Temple was reinstituted in 1860, but in 1861 Church leaders concluded that the foundation was defective. Brigham Young decided that a new foundation made entirely of granite quarried from nearby mountains was required to carry the massive weight of the proposed temple. The new footings were to be sixteen feet thick. President Young declared, "I want this Temple to stand through the Millennium and I want it so built that it will be acceptable to the Lord."¹⁰ The work of rebuilding the foundation moved slowly, and the walls did not reach ground level until 1867.

Despite the problems with apostates and military troops, improvements in communication and transportation, growth in missionary work, increased colonization, and better economic opportunities all brought joy to the Church. While most of the nation suffered a bloody conflict, the circumstances of the Latter-day Saints during the Civil War period formed a stark contrast to those of the rest of the United States. Citizens of Utah enjoyed peace and prosperity. After the difficult years associated with the Utah War, the Church was once again moving forward in its divinely designed course.